

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15 (the third full paragraph on page 5), with the following rewritten paragraph:**

The technique of the present invention is actualized by a variety of applications, which include image processing methods, computer programs that attain the functions of such apparatuses and methods, and recording media in which such computer programs are recorded recorded, and data signals that include such computer programs and are embodied in carrier waves.